

1990

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND (ALASKA PENINSULA AREA)

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Regional Information Report No. 4K90-4

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211 Mission Road  
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February 1990

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ALASKA PENINSULA AREA

The Department will manage the Southeastern District Mainland fishery according to the Southeastern District Management Plan adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. (See attached map.)

The Northwest Stepovak and Stepovak Flats Sections will be managed on a local stock basis. When possible, fishing time in these sections will coincide with other nearby fisheries to avoid concentrating fishing gear.

Set gillnets are the only legal gear allowed in the Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, Northwest Stepovak, East Stepovak, and Stepovak Flats Sections through July 10. After July 10, set gillnets, purse seines, and hand purse seines are legal.

The Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, and East Stepovak Section will be managed on the basis of Chignik sockeye stocks through July 25. After July 25, the whole area will be managed for local stocks.

The forecasted midpoint harvest for the Chignik sockeye returns during 1990 are 447,000 fish for the early return and 727,000 for the second return. If the return comes in as expected and the goals of the plan are achieved, approximately 70,000 estimated Chignik destined sockeye will be harvested prior to July 26. This compares to a recent 5 and 10 year average of 68,000 and 118,000 respectively.

Since the harvestable surplus is expected to exceed 600,000 sockeye, the Southeastern District Mainland fishery may open when the fishery opens at Chignik. Based on the 447,000 harvest forecast, it is possible (but unlikely) that the first opening could be as early as June 8. At least 36 hours notice will be given prior to the first commercial fishing period in the

Southeastern District Mainland fishery. At least an 18 hour notice will be given prior to the opening of any other fishing period, unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress. If the first run fails to develop as expected, the Southeastern District Mainland fishery will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye through July 8 if that many are surplus to the escapement needs.

During the period from approximately June 26 to approximately July 9, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated at Chignik Lagoon. To prevent overharvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Southeastern District Mainland will, in the Department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period.

Fishing time in the Southeastern District Mainland after July 8 will be dependent upon the strength of the second run and on the Chignik Area catch during the first run. When the second run appears strong enough for a fishery at Chignik, the Southeastern District Mainland will be opened if at least 300,000 were harvested from the first run in the Chignik Area. The Department will then manage the fishery whereby the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area from both runs combined will be at least 600,000 and the harvest in the Southeastern District Mainland will approach as near as possible 6 percent of the total Chignik bound sockeye salmon catch', if that many fish are available surplus to the escapement needs.

At the December 1982 meeting, the Board of Fisheries adopted the following regulation pertaining to fishery management plans:

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'The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section of the Kodiak Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye caught in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery outside of the Suzy Creek to Dent Point portion.

## **5 AAC 39.200 APPLICATION OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

(b) In some fishery management plans, the distribution of harvestable fish between various users is determined by the harvest that occurs during a specific time period, at a specific location or by a specific group or groups of users. At times fishermen, due to circumstances that are beyond the control of the Department, such as weather or price disputes, will not harvest fish. When this happens in a fishery governed by a management plan the goals of that plan may not be achieved. Therefore, when a fishery is open to the taking of fish and the group or groups of users whose catch determines the distribution of the harvest as set out in the applicable management plan is not taking the harvestable fish available to them, the Department shall manage the fishery as if the available harvest is being taken. When determining the available harvest, the Department shall consider the number of fish needed to meet spawning requirements, the number of fish present in the fishery and in spawning areas that are in excess to spawning requirements and the estimated harvesting capacity of the group or groups of users that would normally participate in the fishery.

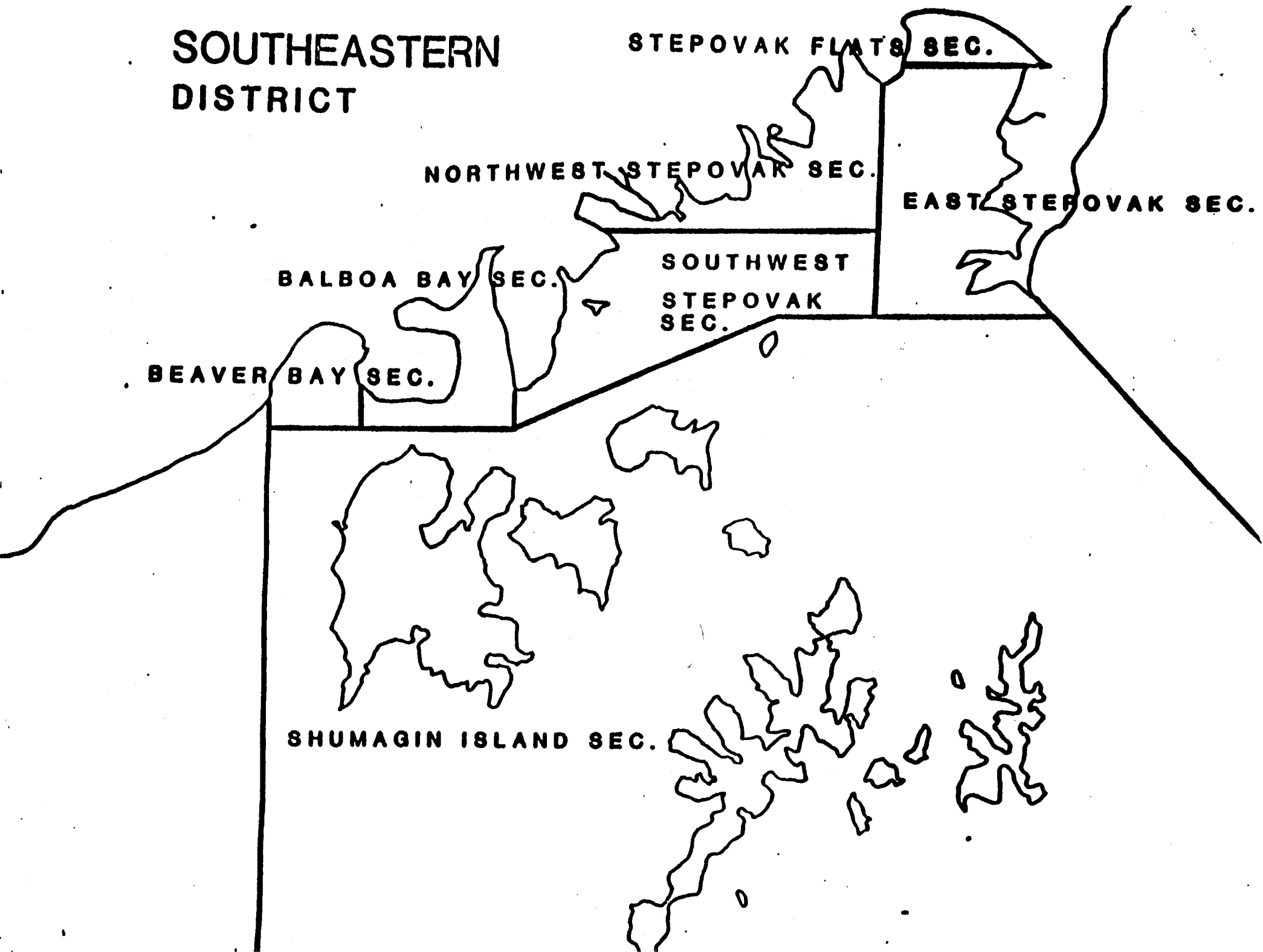
The fishery shall be managed according to the plan as stated in the 1990 regulation book. No attempt will be made to allow equal fishing time with Chignik, as had been done at one time, but rather the end goal will be to meet the 6 percent allocation levels after the conditions<sup>2</sup> of the plan have been satisfied. To meet the goal of 6 percent by July 25, the percentage may fluctuate above or below 6 percent prior to July 25.

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<sup>2</sup>Conditions include daily escapement goals at Chignik, a minimum Chignik sockeye harvest for each run, and restrictive fishing time in the Cape Igvak section and Southeastern District Mainland during the June 26 to July 9 overlap period. The total minimum harvest for Chignik is listed under 5 AAC 09.360 on pages 36 and 37 in the 1988-89 Commercial Finfish Regulation booklet.

Because of the many restrictions placed upon the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to protect the Chignik runs, it may not be possible to achieve a 6 percent allocation level even though the minimum catch level of 600,000 at Chignik is exceeded.

# **SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT**



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